3-21-91

Inside Today:

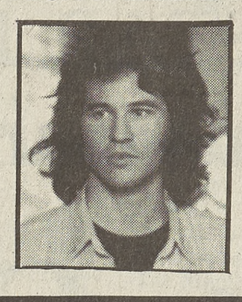
Swimming success

See page 5

Stepping toward the future

See page 2

Jim Morrison lives



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Thursday
March 21, 1991

VALLEY STAR

Van Nuys, California | Serving Valley College for 42 years | Vol.42, No.20

NEWS BRIEFS

Candidates announced

The board of trustees will be on the ballot for election this April.

The following is a list of the candidates and the seats they wish to be elected to for the April 1991 elections:

OFFICE No. 1

Wallace B. Knox, member of the Board of Trustees

Elizabeth K. Stone, airline worker

OFFICE No. 3

John K. Evenhuis, community college student

Elizabeth Michael, county commiteewoman, businesswoman

Julia Li Wu, member of the Board of Trustees

OFFICE No. 5

Brad Rayburn Hamill, aerospace engineer

Peter Ireland, environmental agency executive

John J. Jamogotchian, attorney

Paul Cohen Koretz, city councilman, educator

Patrick Dennis McGuire, educator, businessman

Gloria Elizabeth Rothenberg, community activist, businesswoman.

Hal James Styles, Jr., investment counselor, educator

Kenneth S. Washington, retired college administrator

Howard O. Watts, disabled veteran

William Douglas Zuke, disability advocate

OFFICE No. 7

Gerald C. Broderson, community crime fighter

Mark Isler, business owner

David Lopez-Lee, member of the Board of Trustees.

IMS Film

The Ten Commandments, starring Charlton Heston, Yul Brynner and Anne Baxter, will be shown in the Behavioral Science Building, Room 101, at 1:30 p.m. next Wednesday.

Art Show Continues

June Harwood's *Recent Paintings* will continue to be exhibited Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., through April 18.

Dean's Tea

The Spring 1991 Dean's Tea has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 8. Organization or scholarship sponsors who wish to recognize winners on that occasion should contact Dean Hisayasu at Ext. 243.

Easter Food Drive

The ASU is sponsoring a canned food drive for the homeless. The specific item they've requested is canned vegetable soup. Cans can be dropped off at the library, administration building, or in the ASU office.

Student accuses officer of abuse

By SUSAN TYRRELL
Editor in Chief

One of the officers accused in the police beating of Rodney Glenn King was accused of mistreating an LAVC student two weeks prior to the King incident.

John Bray, 22, an LAVC student, said Officer Laurence Powell physically and orally abused him and two of his black friends when they were trying to break up a fight at a Foothill area gas station on Feb. 19.

Bray said he and his friends were attempting to halt a fight when Powell and another officer arrived. Bray said he tried to explain to Powell that he was just trying to break up a fight, but Powell said, "Shut-up, stop lying. You cry worse than a lady."

Bray said Powell would not listen to anything he or his friends had to say, instead he handcuffed them, pounded them in the back with a billy club, told them to spread their legs then slammed them against the police car.

Although Bray was with three friends, he said only him and his two black friends were mistreated. He said a girl with them, who was white, was not harassed in any way.

Bray is convinced it was race-related.

Bray said his handcuffs were so tight, they numbed half of his hand and he still has a scar on his wrist.

He said Powell took their names, ran a computer check on them and said, "Come on, you're going to jail."

Bray said he and his friends wanted to be taken in at that point because they felt like they would be treated better in jail.

"They didn't have anything on me," Bray said. Powell did not take them in.

Bray said they were finally released after the girl with them, who was white, told Powell what had happened. Bray said the girl told Powell the exact same story he had, but Powell wouldn't listen to him.

Bray said he attempted to file a police complaint, but was turned away. "They took our name and address and said they would get back to us," he said. "They never did."

He said when he returned to file a complaint, the police department didn't have a record of anything that had happened.

"Now they're taking a report," Bray said. "They are pretty much giving us the run-around, enough to keep us quiet."

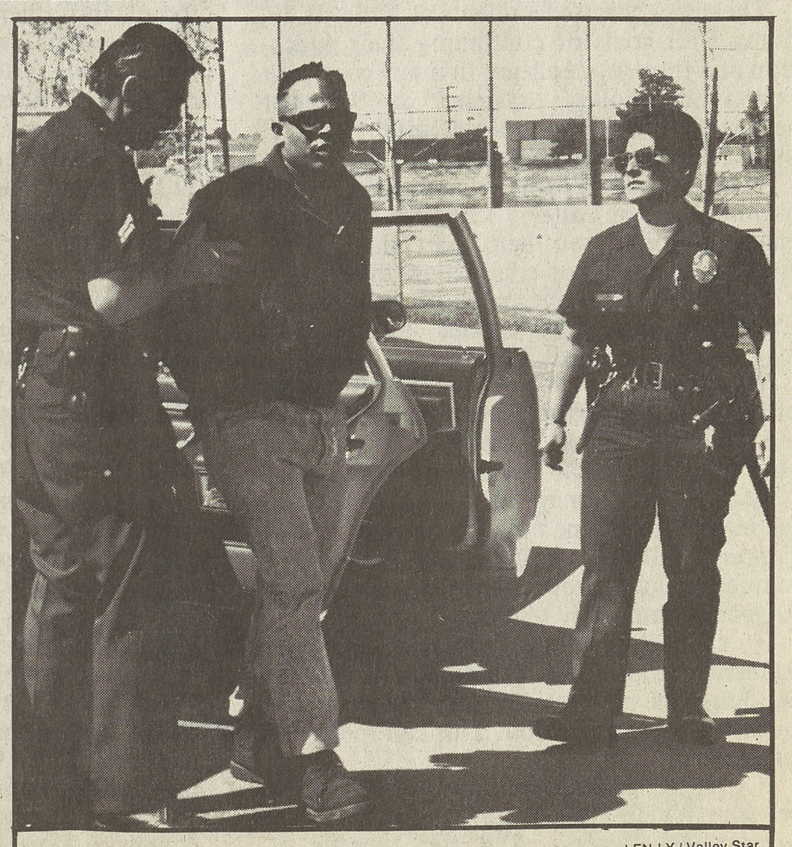
Bray said he has acquired a lawyer and is definitely taking the police to court.

"I want justice," he said. "I have little brothers and nieces and I want them to be treated as citizens."

"It's not really about money," he said of the lawsuit. "They [the police] tried to blow us off and we're going to stand up for what's right."

Bray said his case was presented at the first hearing involving the King case to show that Powell had abused people before.

Captain Tim McBride of the Foothill Division police station did not return the STAR's phone call before press time. McBride told the Daily News last week that he had no comment on the Bray incident.



LEN LY / Valley Star

CAUGHT - Darryl Chase, 24, (center) was arrested in Parking Lot B after a chase by neighbors. Chase, and a still outstanding suspect, were allegedly in the process of robbing a home on Sunnyslope Avenue near LAVC. The victims came home and got into a physical confrontation with the suspects, according to the Van Nuys Police Department. Chase fled and was arrested at LAVC. The Van Nuys Police were unwilling to release the names of the two arresting officers.

Student Trustee claims censorship

By JENNIFER CASE
News Editor

After circulating his first newsletter, in which he criticized the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees, student Trustee Joe N. Rudynski was told in a memo from the Board that he could only circulate 200 copies of his next newsletter and could not use the Districts logo, Rudynski said.

The memo said no more than 200 copies could be made by the district at District expense. In addition, no other staff time or resources may be utilized beyond that required to send the 200 copies. The 200 copies may be metered and/or sent internally by the district. Finally, no district logo may be used.

"Things would have been different if I were a board member," Rudynski said he was told. "It implies my opinion dosen't count."

In his newsletter entitled "When We Love Our Students," Rudynski wrote: "Though I believe we have some of the best board members in the state, they are still, for the most part, spineless and insecure, which leaves little hope for significant change.

"The biggest obstacle to change, however, is not the board itself, but those who got them elected — the AFT College Guild . . . I have found this district will bend over backwards to please the AFT, and consequently, [the AFT] is now really taking advantage of the board . . . Of course, the students, as a result, will end up with deflated student worker budgets and fewer class sections."

Rudynski is still allowed to circulate the newsletter; however, it will not circulate statewide as he proposed, according to Trustee Harold Garvin.

"The board agreed he had a right to send it out and to say what he wants," said Garvin. "We didn't see that he should send it statewide."

Trustee Wallace Knox said, "I didn't read the document. What was said in the letter was irrelevant. The question lies in that he is using district funds."

Joe N. Rudynski

Board President David Lopez-Lee said: "He is constitutionally free to write anything he wants to. My understanding is that over 6,000 copies would be needed to circulate to all district employees. No one has ever requested or been granted that previously."

Garvin said that there was some concern from the other board members about the use of the logo on Rudynski's newsletter.

"The use of the logo on the letter would suggest that the whole board agrees and consents to the views and opinions expressed in the letter," said Lopez-Lee. "Would you agree to someone attacking you?"

"I didn't much agree that the logo makes much difference," Garvin said.

Rudynski said allowing him to still circulate the newsletter, but with no logo, seems like a compromise.

"Censoring it half-way is still censoring it. They're telling me I don't have a right to speak out."

Lopez-Lee said that was not the case.

"We're not in the business of censorship," he said.

"I thought it was a good letter, and he is entitled to his opinion," Garvin said.

Rudynski said the gist of the letter was to help change the "caste system" in the school district which makes students "lower class citizens."

"I would like to change the way people in the institution use students," he said.

Rudynski said we need a change of leadership, but the board is not made of leaders.

"There's something really wrong with this board," Garvin said. Garvin expressed concern over whether the board's first priority was the students.

"The purchase of the [Wilshire] building has nothing to do with the students."

Rudynski agreed.

"Censorship teaches us that discrimination is okay," he said. "When push comes to shove, it's clear where we [students] end up."

KAREN RICHARDSON/Valley Star

TESTING THE WATERS - Business student Rudy Yu and music student Alison Scallorns leap a flooded gutter on Ethel Avenue.

Clubs recruit members

By ARTIS SLIPSAGER
Staff Writer

Rain dampened Club Day fundraising and membership for the clubs this week in Monarch Square, but not their enthusiasm.

A dozen campus clubs had scheduled activities offering students an opportunity to join and learn about various campus organizations. "You can easily get back the $7 ASU fees paid," said Senate President Stacey Scalise. "In addition, you get a $5 rebate at the student bookstore, a 10 percent discount in the cafeteria and student discounts at the IMAX Theaters. The ASU also helps fund the campus Learning Center, library and athletic teams," Scalise said.

Clubs currently active on campus serve a spectrum of student interests. The Administration of Justice club is probably the largest, according to Scalise. They provide a night school escort service and watch program. They also offer a variety of field trips of interest to those students. The trips offer each student an opportunity to gain knowledge about the numerous positions available in the justice field.

Scalise estimated that between one and five percent of the student body at LAVC actually joins any of the clubs on campus. "Forty percent of our students are employed," Scalise said. She said that accounts for the lack of participation in campus activities.

Dr. Glenn Hisayasu, dean of student affairs, said there were 2,100 paid ASU members last semester. 18,000 students were enrolled.

Students can join the art gallery club; the Black Student Union (BSU); M.E.Ch.A, a Chicano student organization; Tau Alpha Epsilon (TAE), the honor society; the broadcasting club and Design Associates.

Other clubs include the Student Coalition for Peace, Collegians for Life, Pro-Choice Energizers and Medically Oriented Students.

The Hillel Club, an organization for Jewish students, offers students from LAVC, Pierce and CSUN a meeting place across the street from LAVC.

New student organizations can be formed after meeting criteria established in the guidelines available from the Student Affairs Office. After developing a constitution, a proposal is submitted for review and ratification by the LAVC Senate. A representative from each campus club then serves in the student Senate.

According to Hisayasu, there are pending applications for three new clubs which are currently in the review process.

Information on any club can be obtained at the ASU office in CC100, or by calling 781-1200 Ext. 361.

—STAR EDITORIAL—

Bond measure:

Prop. C: stepping toward the future

If LAVC students don't care about what happens to this campus, soon there won't really be one to worry about.

The average age of students at Valley is 29, many with goals of continuing their education at a four-year college. In many cases, the community college system, at $50 per semester, provides students with financial assistance in pursuing that goal.

The administration may soon have to put another dent in Valley's schedule. Given the chance, would you help potential LAVC students pursue their educational dreams?

Here's your chance, support Proposition C, the $200 million capital improvement measure on the April 9 ballot.

Why is the *Star* worried about capital improvements when classes have been slashed?

First, Prop. C has nothing to do with the class schedule. It can't restore the class cuts.

Second, the money that is being allotted for improvements of buildings on the LAVC campus, will be coming from a different source; the local property owner, not the Los Angeles Community College District.

If the state doesn't fund for the maintenance and new construction of campus buildings, the money will be taken from other areas, such as instruction. This can mean additional class cuts.

If Prop. C passes, a property tax of $2.35 per year for 30 years is all it would cost the average homeowner. And the benefits of Prop. C can make a significant change in our community colleges.

Among the projects discussed for Valley College, if the bond measure passes, is the construction of a Health Science Building, upgrading of the library, addition of study rooms and other student services, expansion of classrooms, installation of heaters and air conditioning systems, inclusion of special handicapped services, solving of the lighting problem, and correction of other safety hazards.

The *Star* firmly supports Prop. C. This $200 million bond measure benefits all LAVC students as well as the nine community colleges in the district.

If Prop. C passes, local community colleges buildings will be renovated and made more efficient to students.

If the bond measure doesn't pass, this and other community college campuses will continue to deteriorate as they have for the past 30-plus years.

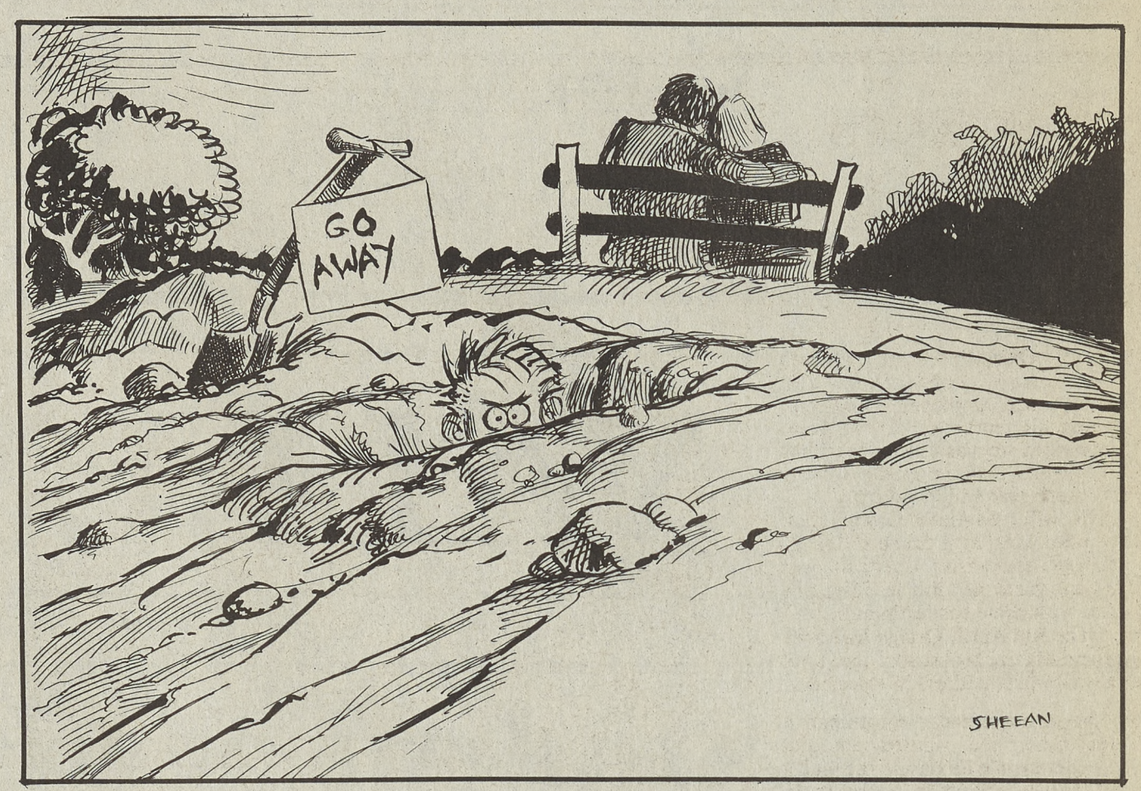
In the late 1970s, Prop. 13 denied additional monies for maintenance of buildings in the community colleges. Now we have the opportunity of renovating and expanding our nine community campuses.

Opportunities, such as this, do not come often and this measure will not be a simple one to pass; a two-thirds majority vote is needed.

One glance at last fall's and this spring's class schedule and its becomes apparent how negatively LAVC students are affected by other budget cuts. Don't let this happen again.

Prop. C is a step in the right direction, a chance to move forward and make a positive change at LAVC.

The *Star* urges students, staff and faculty to actively support Prop. C.



Wake up 'Little Hitlers'

By CHRISTOPHER D. SHARPE
View Editor

It's amazing how many people-there are in this world. They come in all ages and races. Whether poor or wealthy, they dominate this vast wasteland that we call society.

Poor people, rich people, all bitter, yearning for respect. They have none for themselves. They are driven by power. That's it. Control. Not just control, *vindictive* control. They'll try to control you and make you know it, make it hurt.

How sick! How obscene! How inverted and convoluted our logic is. Little Hitlers. We pat ourselves on the back at how advanced we are (technologically), while simultaneously, we're wallowing in the filth and the excrement of our own making.

We take an uncanny, almost maniacal, pride in watching others swallow our filth, making them live in the squalor that we have created.

You know what I'm talking about. Deny it, if you must. It does not change the truth. It only perverts your perception of it.

If you haven't already joined the legions in this deadly game of atrophy, then you most assuredly have been abused by it.

I am just as sure that you have acquiesced and and taken it more times than not. If not, I can only assume that you're reading the *Star* from a prison cell, a park bench (fondly called home), or from six feet under.

Well, I'll tell you. I'm sick of it. Do we enjoy abuse? Do we crave enslavement? Do we have wet dreams over self-destruction?

Speak up! Was that a yes or a no? A no?

Well, say it! Stop acquiescing. Demand the freedom to control your own life. What man gave you that life? Only that man can take it away. Quit giving it away.

I wonder how many of us actually want our lives back. How many of you students want to explore life and your existence, not just be told what to do and how to do it.

Do you want to be enslaved? Just say so. Or, rather, continue on the path which you now may find yourself. Enslavement will happen, if it hasn't already.

Our forefathers supposedly died to prevent our people from being enslaved. Here we are, just giving ourselves away. Acquiescence is easier.

Wake up! Let the MF'ers know that we do not dig enslavement.

Monday and Tuesday, March 25 and 26, each one of us who cherishes our lives and the lives of our children, must make our voices heard. Unity! Solidarity! It won't hurt. You won't lose your job. You won't be thrown in jail.

All of us who seek freedom, and with that freedom, peace, need to wear a black arm or head band, expressing our anger at being enslaved.

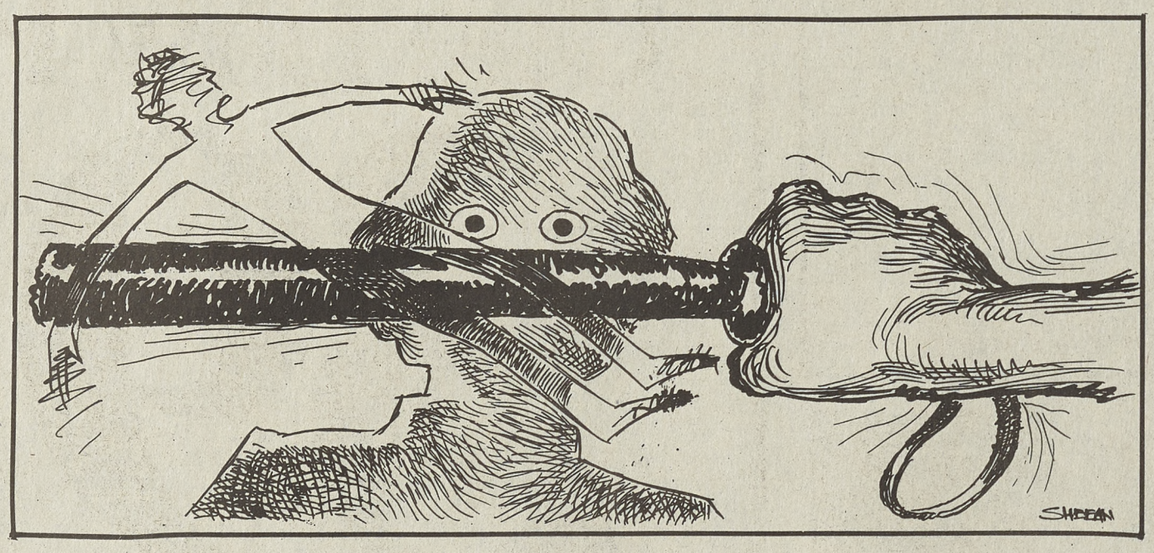
If you actually want control of your own lives, here's the way to express it.

If you forget, or just don't have the time, no big deal. Just make sure that the hole you're digging is six feet deep. We don't want your rotting carcass washing up in the rain.

As Patrick Henry once said, and it still applies today, "Give me liberty or give me death."

Please don't kill the messenger — he's my hero

By JAE LEVINE WEISS
Staff Writer



He was struck with billy clubs, kicked and punched and hit a total of 54 times, while the rest of the policemen called to the scene stood and watched.

They broke his leg. They fractured his skull. They permanently cracked one eye socket. They damaged his brain. Then, tied like a dog, Rodney King was loaded into an ambulance and carted off to jail.

They thought the police report would cover their tracks. And it probably would have if, across the street, a horrified witness hadn't recorded the whole thing with a hand-held video camera he probably bought to record his baby's first steps.

Played over and over on every news broadcast across the country, the amateur black-and-white video tape documenting the Los Angeles police officers' brutal beating of a 25-year-old black man has shocked the nation.

The film has already become instrumental in not only creating an opportunity for justice for King, but in instigating an investigation of the system that permitted such unbelievable brutality.

There is more than a gnawing suspicion that King's beating was not an isolated act of violence on the part of police officers. This was just one time they got caught. Why? Because someone was watching.

During the same week, after completing a grueling and dangerous assignment covering the Gulf War from Baghdad, CNN war correspondent, Peter Arnett received a shower of angry calls accusing him of being a traitor to his country. Why?

Because amid the current fanatical waving of flags and celebration of heroes, Americans only want to remember Scuds having been blown up by our Patriot missles and Iraqui military installations having been demolished by "smart" bombs.

What Arnett's irate audience did not want to know about was that American bombs had blown up a bunker full of women and children. But like it or not, it happened. And someone was watching.

I am not suggesting that the bunker incident was intentional, or even unavoidable. This was a war. As tragic as that episode was, during war, death happens.

As the Gulf War television broadcasts inundated us with optimistic rhetoric and nintendo-like graphics of exploding tanks, it was surprising how few faces of death appeared on our screens.

It was all one triumphant Superbowl game. And then Arnett had the audacity to show us that one of our bombs had caused the death of children.

In the absence of reporters, Iraqi soldiers went into Kuwait and vandalized, pillaged, destroyed, raped and tortured. There were no cameras to bear witness. Only the tales of survivors and the mass graves found in liberated Kuwait City verified the atrocities.

One of the first things that Saddam Hussein's government has done while faced with the unrest and uprising of the Iraqi people is to ban foreign journalists, including Arnett, from the country.

Iraq's government does not want the world to witness the techniques it has planned for remaining in power. One can only speculate as to the terror going on now that no one is watching.

Unfortunately, as much as we would like to believe differently, the United States is not exclusively a nation of heroes fighting for truth, justice and the American Way.

We are also a nation suffering from the tyranny of greedy politicians who make back-scratching deals, a country still plagued by massive unemployment, drug abuse, homelessness, crime and violence. We have our share of scandals: S&L misappropriations, bunker bombings and police beatings.

In Iraq, as in many countries around the world where freedom of speech is suppressed, there are no scandals. They have no Watergates, they have no Contra Affairs. Censorship and suppression leave a vacuum of unchecked power that has given officials unobstructed control.

In Iraq, a journalist would not be able to write an article such as this one. In many countries, they do, indeed, kill the messenger.

During our current surge of patriotism, wave your flag proudly. But don't just wave it for the heroes who courageously did what their country asked them to do to bring peace to foreign soil. Wave it also for the right to free expression.

Wave it for the citizens who are not afraid to question policies or to express unpopular points of view, who uncover and expose and keep track of corruption. Wave it for the freedom enjoyed by American citizens that allows people to disagree with you.

From journalists like Arnett, to private citizens with video cameras and consciences, Americans continue to exercise the right of free speech that keeps our system accountable. We don't have a perfect system, a perfect society, a just judicial system. What we do have is the right to speak out and instigate change.

The next time an American police officer chooses to abuse his power, someone may be watching. Because of this country's freedom of expression, the exposure of such appalling corruption cannot easily be suppressed.

It is precisely this watching, the act of bearing witness, that preserves and protects what Americans believe to be inalienable rights.

Arnett is not a traitor. Like the witness who filmed the beating of Rodney King, he is among the most courageous of American patriots.

Valley Star

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Editorial and Advertising Offices
5800 Fulton Ave. Van Nuys, CA. 91401
Phone (818)781-1200, Ext. 275/276
Advertising Ext.239

SUSAN M. TYRRELL
Editor in Chief

JULIE D. BAILEY
Advertising Director

Represented by CASS
Advertising Service
1800 Sherman Pl.
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★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★

The Valley Star is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic or religious denigrations.

Letters should be signed and, if applicable, include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented to the Valley Star office, Bungalow 25, by Monday for the following Thursday.

Workers hit back

By JESSICA J. CHAVEZ
Opinion Editor

Gary Ortega, an ex-Lockheed electronic technician and maintenance employee, was completing his tenth year at the company when he was put on the "hit list," which was the list of workers that were next to be laid off.

His wife, Marlene Ortega, had been working at Lockheed for 21 years but she wasn't saved; she was laid off from her job in July. She dealt with price cost estimates.

Since last April, Ortega had been on and off the hit list six times until he was finally laid off in December.

Ortega explained the torment at that time. He wanted to quit Lockheed while he was on the hit list but he was trying to complete 10 years at the company for retiring purposes.

"I was caught between the rock and a hard place- you don't want to lose what you put into the job," he said.

Then there is the other side, Ortega said he would see two or three thousand workers per week being laid off, "Lockheed had to clear out machines from the rooms so that they could process the people that were being laid off."

Lucky for the Ortega family, being laid off opened other doors. Marlene was able to open up a shop of her own, and Gary found refuge at the Los Angeles Displaced Worker Program.

It is the first time this specialized course is offered, Gary feels lucky enough to have been informed of it through the Verdugo Job Center.

LEN LY / Valley Star

WORKING HARD - Gary Ortega, a laid off Lockheed worker learns new vocational skills in a special LAVC program.

He found that the Displaced Worker Program was free and easily accessible; to qualify the applicant had to be laid off from a major company, have at least two years experience or knowledge in the electronic field and successfully complete a test given prior to enrollment.

Valley college was chosen for the program's debut due to the location, proximity and exceptional electronic facilities of LAVC.

Unlike the community college system, funding for the course next year does not depend on this year's enrollment, nor on the successful completion of the course.

"No, that is not a factor. We offer the program on demand," said Pat Hodges, LAVC specially funded programs liaison.

She also said that petitions have been coming into her office requesting additional classes. Hodges is looking into the possibility of opening another computer electronics course and a computer literacy class sometime in April or May.

A promising note for other laid off electricians, which weren't aware of the program previously, is that three other colleges in this district will probably host the Displaced Worker Program: Mission, LA Trade Tech and West LA College.

NASA scientist speaks to LAVC students

By CATHERINE GUNN
Staff Writer

Antarctica may resemble the last stand of life on Mars, says Dr. Robert Wharton, who has studied the South Pole extensively.

Wharton, a senior scientist at NASA, was invited by the Earth Sciences department to be part of Career Education Week and spoke March 13 about NASA's search for life in the Antarctic.

Wharton told students the last vestiges of life on Mars may have been similar to microbial mats which he has observed at the bottom of Antarctica's ice-covered lakes.

Humans will set foot on Mars by the year 2020, says Wharton.

NASA is studying the most basic trophic level, found in the Antarctic where any kind of life is scarce, and will compare soil samples from Mars.

The arctic region is not untouched by pollution. Wharton has found evidence of DDT and remnants of atomic testing from the 50's.

The Arctic ice shelf is three miles thick on this continent, the size of Texas and Mexico combined. If this ice were to melt, beaches everywhere will be inundated with water, said Wharton, referring to global warming concerns.

Wharton showed slides of his heroic dives into ice-covered lakes. Enough light gets through the frozen surface to allow photosynthesis.

Wharton will return to the Arctic for further experiments and plans to cooperate with the Russians.

Though Anartica is synonymous with ice, 42 percent of the region is ice-free dry valleys.

The volcanic island of New Zealand is 2000 miles away and is the last stop before McMurdo, where there is a United States base. Helicopters drop enough food for four months and later pack out the human waste.

A town 100 miles from the NASA research station can use a few workers. The job provides opportunities to witness glaciers in action.

Employees in the town of 800 must tolerate temperatures of 35 degrees below zero in the day time. Antarctic is, like Mars, a cold dessert.

Correction:
In the previous issue of the *STAR*, it was incorrectly reported that the faculty could be fired upon the sending of the March 15 letters. The March 15 letters were sent out for flexibilty purposes, and limited to administrators, according to Julia Wu, and David Lopez-Lee.

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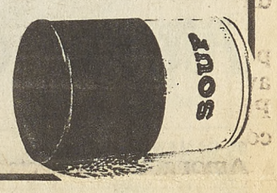

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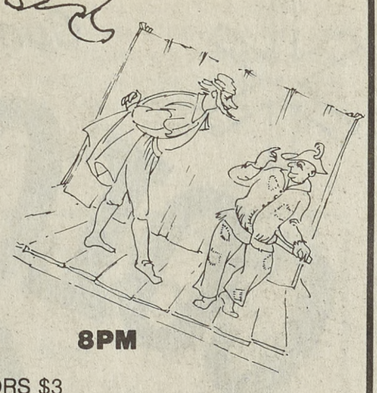

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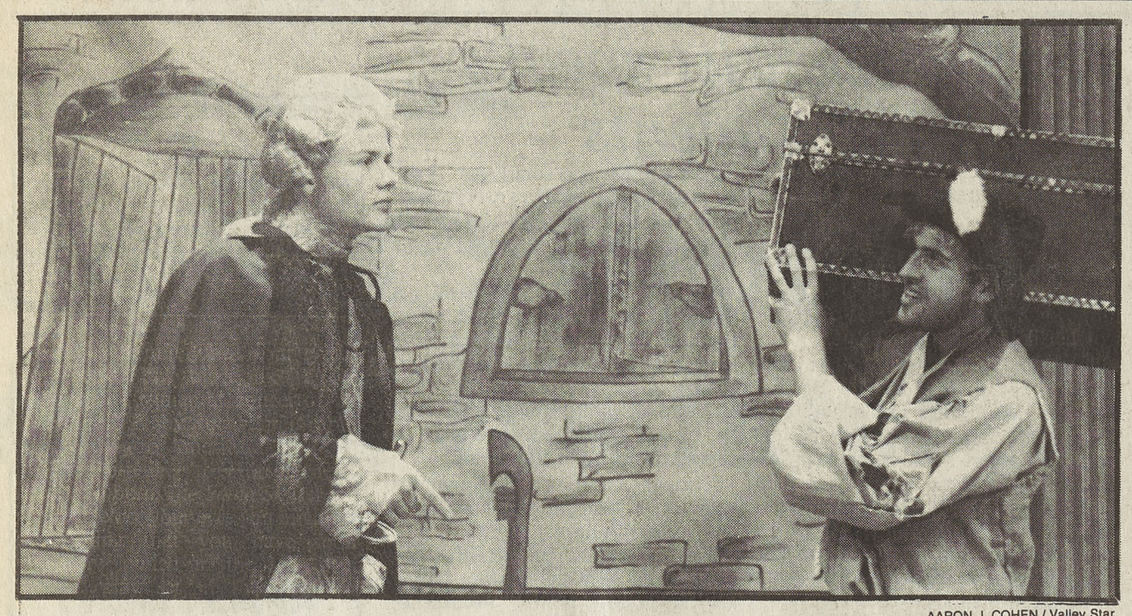

AARON J. COHEN / Valley Star

HUSTLING A JOB — Truffaldino (right, Adam S. Birstock) tries and succeedes in getting another master, Florindo Aretusi (Phillip deSouzsa) so he can get two separate salaries. His other master is Beatrice Rasponi.

Silliness served a la carte

By JAE LEVINE WEISS
Staff Writer

The Servant of Two Masters, Tom Cone's adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's play, opened Friday, March 15th.

Directed by Kathryn Naylor Milton and performed by members of the LAVC Theatre Arts Department, the play, which is set in Venice, Italy, in the 1740s, is a whimsical romantic farce performed in exaggerated burlesque style.

The ensemble of stylized caricatures interact in an 18th century version of what might well be a cross between a tongue-in-cheek soap opera and the Marx Brothers at their wackiest. There are a couple of antics which are straight out of old Mack Sennett slapstick comedies. The costumes and sets add to the sense that one is witnessing a puppet show starring live actors.

The plot itself is nothing much. It involves a complex series of deceptions and misunderstandings that have to be unscrambled through a maze of manipulations in order for everyone to get to the inevitable happily-ever-after.

The enthusiastic performances of the cast members as they put their characters through their paces create a vibrant theater experience. While all the actors bring energy to their parts, a few are worth special commendation.

Adam S. Birstock is delightfully mischievous as the conniving but well intentioned servant, Truffaldino.

Kristin Bryson plays Clarice, the daughter of Pantalone who is separated from her lover when the man to whom she had been promised suddenly appears from the dead.

Performed without the histrionic posturing that overdramatized some of the other characters, Bryson's natural approach makes her a charming heroine.

Ann Deyell, who plays the handmaid, Smeraldina, steals every scene she is in with her saucy arrogance and provocative gestures.

No political messages, no socially significant statements, *The Servant of Two Masters* serves up a couple of hours of just plain silliness, and can't we all use a little bit of that?

The Doors open a window

By KATHERINE GRACE
Staff Writer

What is it that makes your heart pound when you walk out of the theater after seeing *The Doors,* Oliver Stone's latest foray into the 60s?

Is it the feeling that events you missed in the "make love, not war" 60s have suddenly been made clear,like dropping into place the ever-elusive last piece of blue sky in a jigsaw puzzle?

Or is it the stomach-clenching reality of the performances given by Val Kilmer as the mesmerizing Jim Morrison, leader of The Doors, and Meg Ryan, who plays his lover of six years, Pamela Courson?

The movie is reminiscent of *Sid and Nancy*, but without the anger and violence of the British punk scene.

Most of the credit for the film's believability goes to Kilmer, who gives a spellbinding, albeit somewhat disturbing performance. His uncanny resemblance to Morrison makes the transition into the viewer's mind effortless.

For those who grew up in the 60s, the movie recaptures that drug-induced euphoria, a disturbing phenomenon in the sober 90s; but the movie makes a memorable impact on the viewer who might be too young to remember the Doors and their musical and personal escapades.

Ryan portrays Courson with amazing depth and substance and becomes much more than the self-professed "ornament" to the viewer. She provides the perfect "muse" to Morrison's "poet."

THE MEANING OF LIFE — Jim Morrison (Val Kilmer, second from left) and the rest of the band test the bounds of reality.

Also giving a credible performance as Ray Manzarek, The Doors' talented keyboardist, is Kyle MacLachlan, who surprisingly overcomes his David Lynch-generated persona.

Most young people are familiar with The Doors' music, if only from listening to their parents' old records. The meaning of the lyrics are sometimes difficult to comprehend, but the music itself draws you into its fold.

The movie attempts to open up Morrison's labyrinth-like mind, giving you a more comprehensive understanding of the message he might have been trying to get across.

It's as if you are finally privy to an inside joke after all these years. Understanding Morrison's poetry-in-music is in the mind of the listener, however.

But we'll never know if we understand or not. Jim Morrison died of "mysterious circumstances" in Paris in 1971 and Pamela three years after him.

With Oliver Stone's fascination with the precedent-setting and somewhat decadent 60s, what can we look forward to next from him?

Horse definitely no Mr. Ed

By SAMANTHA RAPHAEL
Staff Writer

Horse, definitely not your typical pop band, but more like a five member instrumental concerto, has taken the U.K. by storm and is rapidly spreading to America as well.

While listening to Horse's newly released album *The Same Sky*, if you where to close your eyes you might get the feeling that you have spontaneously landed in the seat of a musical play set in the civil war period. The lyrics, sung mostly by Horse McDonald the lead singer, ooze with emotion as he attempts to give his heart and soal to his listeners.

Some of the suffering that Horse is monotonously expressing is luckily relieved by Angela McAlinden (guitar and back-up vocals).

McAlinden's voice is angelic and rhythmically helps to sooth McDonald's over-acted vocals. George Hutchison (guitar), Graham Brierton (bass), Brian McNeill (keyboards) and Steve Grantley (drums), play in sync ruhich brings the music alive and transforms the band into a group.

Horse has a pop attitude with a classical undertone that could be classified as "alternate pop."

The Same Sky was first released in the U.K. in 1989, they made there public debut live on a U.K. program *The Tube* in 1987. Which led to a contract with Capitol Records later that year.

"What the band lives for is to play live," says McDonald. "That's the ultimate, because our whole existence — the reason for our songwriting and performing — is to elicit reaction from an audience. "I think we're honest about what we do."

Look for *The Same Sky* as well as other releases from Horse in selected record stores near you.

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RICK FRIESEN / Valley Star

WARM EMBRACE — Kisa Kirkpatrick embraces her grandmother, Daisy Kirkpatrick after a meet against Pierce. Kirkpatrick said her family gives her a lot of encouragement and support.

Profile:

Swim champ gives all

By ANNA VILLA
Sports Editor

With a week of continuous rainfall and cool winds, it is hard to imagine anyone swimming outdoors, "It's not so bad; you have to do it if you want to get better. The quicker you get in and the quicker you start swimming, the warmer you'll be." said sophomore Kisa Kirkpatrick.

Kirkpatrick is the leading swimmer for the Monarch swim team this season. With an All-American champion title in six events, including the freestyle, the breastroke and the butterfly, under her belt, she is continuing her winning streak this season, giving the team a generous boost in Western State Conference competition.

The 21-year-old blond said her mother started taking her in the pool since she was eight months old. She started competing in 11th grade for Burroughs High School in Burbank, and also took up basketball, volleyball and softball. "I always thought that if I could get something done it would be in swimming," she said.

Motivation for Kirkpatrick is not lacking, especially because she doesn't like to be beaten, "I like to be good in what I do, because you get so many payoffs from swimming; the harder you work every single minute, you do so much better and it comes out in the end," she said pensively.

One thing Kirkpatrick revels in is overlapping another person she said with a mischievous grin. "People think if you are faster, that makes you a special type of person, but I started out slow just like everyone else. You have to work to be fast. I know I push the guys [the men's team] to work harder because they don't like to be beaten by a girl."

However hard work has it's setbacks. Since last season, Kirkpatrick has been nursing an injured shoulder which resulted from too much strain on the muscles and a cold has had her land-ridden for a week which is lowering her motivation, "I feel like all the work I'm doing is for nothing; it's frustrating because you feel like you're behind and physically you are," she said.

Yet for Kirkpatrick winning surpasses the hardships, "If I'm in top shape, I don't care who I swim against; you still feel good when you finish because you're stronger.

Even though she spends so much of her time in the pool, Kirkpatrick is carrying 12 units this semester but sheepishly she admits that only two of her classes are academic ones.

She has yet to decide on her major and is unsure whether she will pursue a higher competitive level of swimming.

Sports Briefs

A second-inning sacrifice fly accounted for the lone run of the afternoon as visiting LAVC lost a Western State Conference game to Oxnard 1-0 last Saturday.

Steve Trainor (4-2) pitched nine strong innings but it was not enough to keep Valley from dropping to 6-14-1 overall, 3-5 in conference. A lack of timely hitting and four double plays helped Oxnard shut out the Monarchs and up their conference record to 6-1.

"We're only two or three innings away from being 6-2 in conference," said head coach Chris Johnson. With a little better offensive execution, we'll be right back in this thing."

Valley's next game will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at Moorpark College.

By ANNA VILLA
Sports Editor

The women's track team dashed to a win at the Beaver Relays last Friday and Saturday where they met up with the top teams of Northern California. The men's team held their end of the winning line slipping into fifth place out of 27 teams.

The four-member team of Jill Cameron, Melanie Clark, Kim Montgomery and Shaunte Parker took first in both the 400m and the 800m relays but were eventually disqualified for the 400m. Track coach James Harvey said he had no idea why the team was disqualified for that race.

The competition called for the combined scores of a three-member team in field events and the trio of Cameron, Clark and Jennifer Stewart allotted enough points to score first place in the javelin while Clark, Lori Mertes and Stewart also placed first in the high jump.

Clark, Pam Martin and Stewart placed second in the long jump and Clark, Mertes and Stewart took third in the shot put.

Individually, Clark and Stewart took the blue ribbon in the long jump and javelin respectively.

Harvey said the men's team ran above average considering the team lost four people to injuries last week. Lemarck Allen Marcus Bridges, Russel Hester and Robert Scott ran the 400m relay and Allen, Brice Alpough, Hester and Scott ran the 800m both teams placed fifth.

In field events the brightest member was Robert Scott who tied the stadium record for first in the long jump (25.02 ft.).

The Monarchs will travel to Santa Barbara tomorrow for the Easter Relays.

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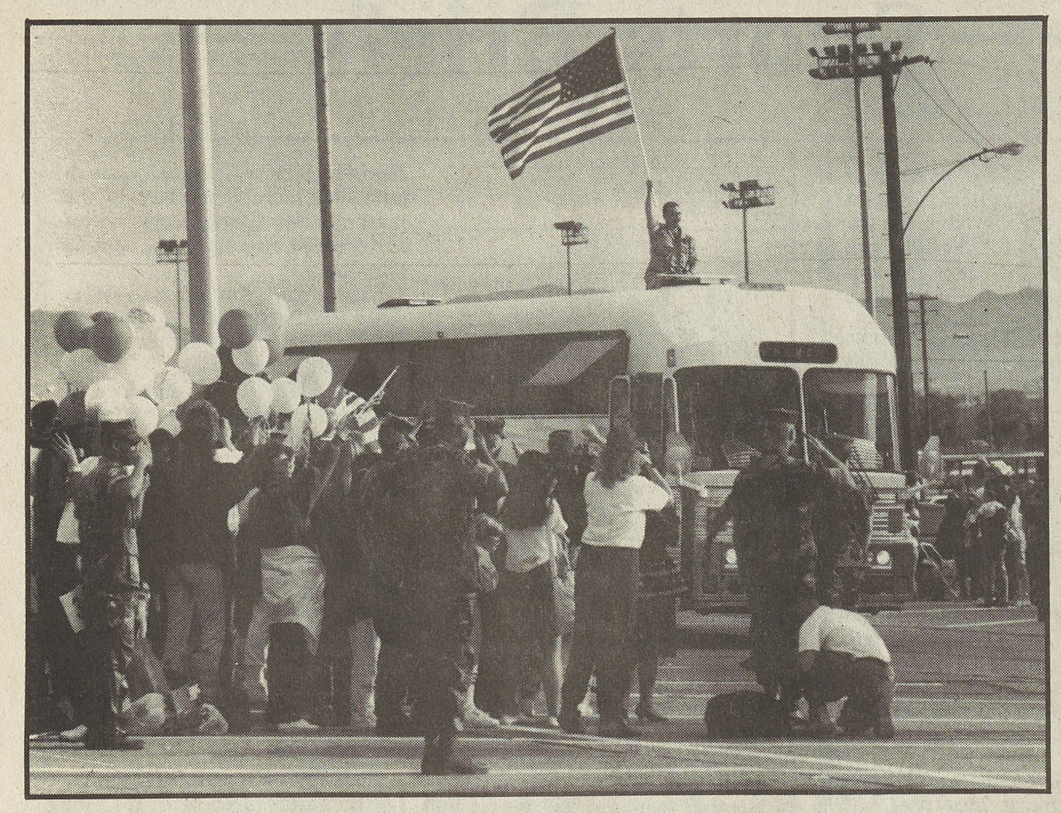


HONEY, I'M HOME — Warrant Officer Steve Clayton proudly holds the U.S flag from atop the first of three buses that were met by a large crowd at the base at Twentynine Palms.

BABY MAKES THREE — Lance Cpl. John Prado gets first look at three-week-old daughter, Stephanie, as wife, Donna looks on.

DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL — Wiping away tears of joy, Vanessa (4), as she waits for her father, Staff Sgt. Tim Saucedo.

Home at last

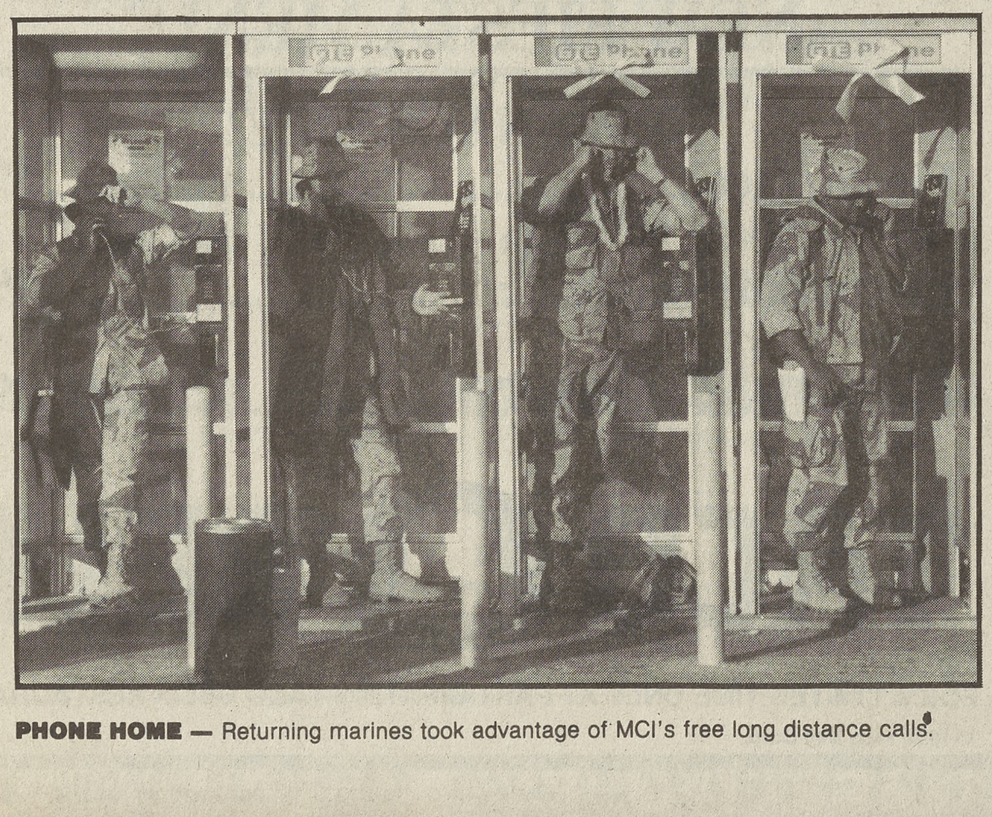
As thousands of troops began returning home to the U.S. from the Middle East over the past two weeks, anticipation and excitement began to build. In California, the Marines' 7TH Expeditionary Force was eagerly greeted by a crowd of 500 family members and friends gathered at the Twentynine Palms Marine Base.

After landing at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino, the Marines were bused to Twentynine Palms— a trip that took 2½ hours longer than usual due to a slowing down created by thousands of people cheering the buses as they travelled along the 50 mile stretch of Highway 62 which leads to the base.

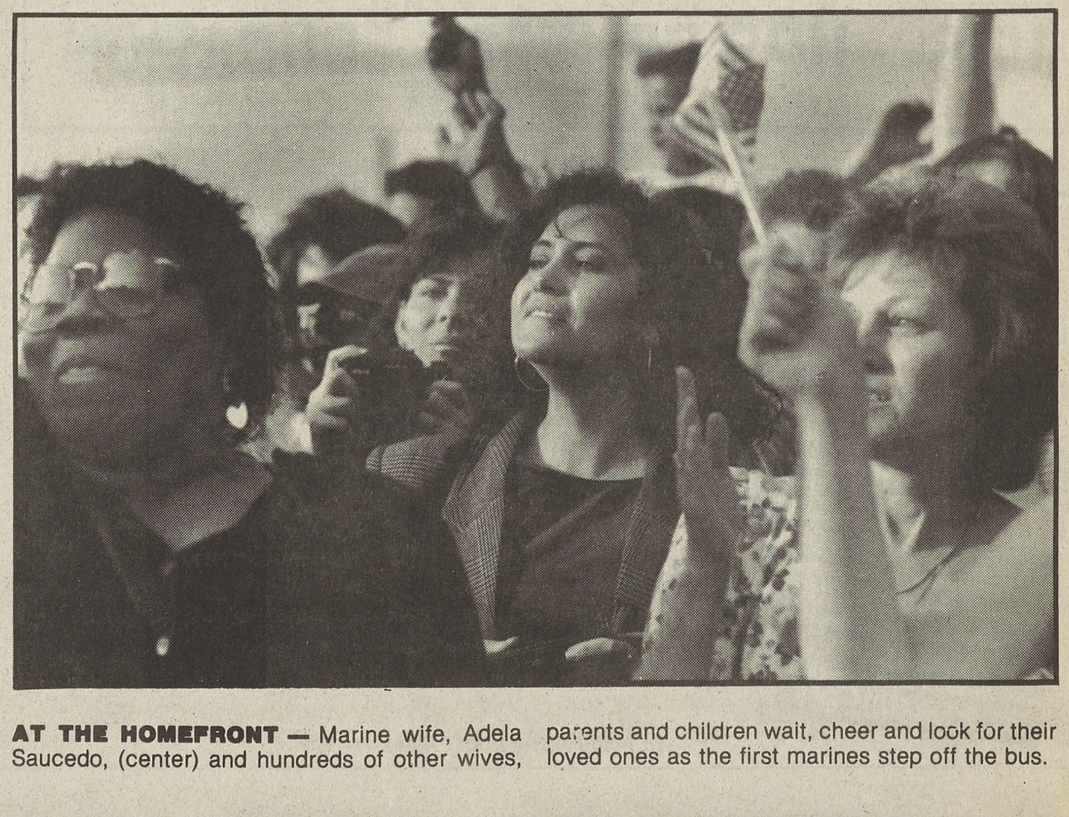
Families had been waiting at the base since ten in the morning— the Marines finally arrived at 4:20 in the afternoon.

The 7TH had been sent to the Persian Gulf eight days after the initial call-up of troops by President Bush in August of last year and was instrumental in the taking of Kuwait City last month.

Photos and text by Karen Richardson



PHONE HOME — Returning marines took advantage of MCI's free long distance calls.



AT THE HOMEFRONT — Marine wife, Adela Saucedo, (center) and hundreds of other wives, parents and children wait, cheer and look for their loved ones as the first marines step off the bus.